WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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Volume III Number 1

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY PLANS IN WEST VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Miss Lenore M. Baber, Librarian

Fortunately, when New River State College Library (now West Virginia Institute of Technology) was built, the height of the stack room was sufficient for a balcony to be added later. If and when the need should ever arise, was said as an afterthought. For the past few years the need has been most painfully realized. Books, periodicals, and other library paraphernalia have crowded every available space in the reading room and stack room.

Now, plans have definitely been made for providing more space, more comfort, and more beauty in the library.

Recently the reading room has been greatly improved by the installation of lamps on every table and by the addition of periodical racks and several comfortable red leather chairs and settees. This attractive corner has increased the library attendance, the circulation of books and periodicals, and has added much to the comfort of the students.

The balcony in the stack room will be of steel construction and will have sufficient stacks to house twenty thousand volumes. It will be well-lighted, reached by a stairway on either side, and have a lift for conveying books.

The first floor of the stack room will have individual carrells for the faculty and students. It will be finished in colonial oak with recessed wall shelving where the most-used reference books will be kept. The

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FAIRMONT STATE COLLEGE

Mr. Harold D. Jones, Librarian

Preliminary drawings for a new library building for Fairmont State College were accepted by the State Board of Education at a recent meeting. Working drawings are now being prepared by the official architects, L. D. Schmidt and Son, of Fairmont, and will be submitted in a few months for approval. It is hoped that the sum of $400,000 will be released for the new structure.

Basic concepts concerning the new building were developed by a Library Building Committee, which included President George H. Hand, the librarian, assistant librarian, superintendent of buildings and grounds, president of the Student Council and seven faculty members. After a series of meetings, the committee met with the architects to explain its basic philosophy and to go over the detailed specifications that had been developed. The architects, in turn, studied the structure and operation of the present inadequate library and consulted with members of the committee from time to time as drawings were made and revised.

The new library will occupy a commanding hillside not far from present classroom buildings. Its exterior will be of brick similar to that used in other buildings on the campus. Modern in design, it is to harmonize with present structures on the campus, but will omit costly ornamental columns and trim.

The ground floor, in addition to housing the heating plant, will in-

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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the West Virginia Library Association.

Purpose

Section 2. The purpose of the West Virginia Library Association shall be to promote library service and librarianship in West Virginia.

Members

Section 3. Any person interested in the promotion of library service may become a member, with a right to vote, upon payment of the dues provided for in the by-laws.

Section 4. Any library, club or other organization which is interested in furthering the purpose of the West Virginia Library Association may become an institutional member by payment of the annual dues provided for in the by-laws and be entitled to send a delegate with full powers of membership.

Section 5. On a nomination of the Executive Board, persons who have rendered outstanding services to library interests in the state, but who are not at the time actively engaged in library work within the state, may be elected honorary members by unanimous vote at any annual meeting of the Association.

Officers

Section 6. The officers of the Association shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, to be elected at the annual meeting. These officers shall perform such duties as are customarily delegated to them in similar organizations.

Executive Board

Section 7. The officers of the Association, the immediate past president, the editor of the West Virginia Libraries, the executive secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, and the chairmen of the sections provided for in the by-laws, Section 13, shall constitute the Executive Board, of which the president of the Association shall be chairman. The Board shall have power to transact all business for the Association in the interval between meetings, including the filling of vacancies in office.

Meetings

Section 8. The Association shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the Executive Board shall decide. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held upon call of the president. In case of an emergency which causes an annual meeting to be inadvisable, the Executive Board may decide not to have it.

Quorum

Section 9. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or called meeting of the Association. Three members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

Amendments

Section 10. This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the enrolled members present, provided that written or printed notice of the proposed amendment be sent to the members, by the secretary, at least two weeks previously.

BY-LAWS

Officers

Section 1. The president shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members which shall present the name of one candidate for each elective office, consent being secured from the nominees, for president, for vice-president, for secretary, and for treasurer. The secretary of the Association shall send the chairman of the Nominating Committee a list of all living previous officers of the Association and a list of the active membership. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Votes shall be cast by written ballot, and a majority of those present shall be necessary to elect.

Section 2. The term of all officers of the Association shall commence at the adjournment of the annual meeting at which they were elected.

Section 3. The president shall preside at the meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board. The president shall approve all orders drawn on the treasurer and any contracts authorized by either the Board or the Association. The president shall, with advice of the Executive Board, appoint such committees and define their duties as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Association. New committees may be created and old committees discontinued whenever conditions require such action.

Section 4. The vice-president shall be president-elect and shall act for the president during his absence or inability.

Section 5. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board. The secretary shall prepare a report of the annual meeting and any special meetings of the Association and send one copy to the Library Journal, and one copy to the Bulletin of the American Library Association, one copy to the president, and keep one copy in the secretary's file.

Section 6. The officers of the Association shall deposit in the West Virginia University Library for safekeeping, all correspondence and records not needed for current use.

Section 7. The treasurer shall collect and have the custody of all moneys and dues belonging to the Association and keep correct accounts, sign all checks when authorized by the president, make an itemized written report of the year's work to the auditing committee before the last day of the month preceding the Annual Convention, and turn over books, funds, and records to his successor at the close of the convention. The auditing committee shall make a report at the business meeting of the convention. The incoming treasurer shall make a financial report within 30 days after the Annual Convention to the president for the information of the Executive Board.

Section 8. As each four-year term of the American Library Association Councilors expires, the immediate past president shall fill the vacancy.

Dues

Section 9. Annual dues for individual memberships shall be $2.00.

Section 10. Dues for institutions or organizations shall be $5.00 a year.

Section 11. Honorary members shall pay no dues.

Section 12. The annual dues shall be due on or immediately preceding the date of each annual meeting. Members who have not paid their dues by the end of the annual meeting will be billed by the treasurer within two weeks after the annual meeting, or if for cause there is no meeting, during the month of October. No member whose dues are not paid shall be entitled to vote and members in arrears for more than one year will be dropped from the membership roll. The fiscal year of the Association is from October 1 to September 30.

Sections

Section 13. Sectional groups may be formed within the Association after written petition to and approval of the Executive Board with final action by the Association. The officers of the sectional groups shall be a chairman and a secretary who shall be elected at the meeting of the section or round table and who shall be responsible for the program of the section meeting.

Parlimentary Authority

Section 14. Robert's Rules of Order shall be accepted as the authority in conducting the meetings of this Association.

Amendments

Section 15. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or called meeting of the Association.

At the Huntington meeting last fall, it was decided to publish the Constitution of the West Virginia Library Association in an issue of West Virginia Libraries, in order that the entire membership might have it for reference.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws will be glad to receive the comments or criticisms that any member may care to offer on the Constitution. Letters may be sent to the Committee or to the editor of West Virginia Libraries.

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WVLA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Executive Board was held in Charleston on Saturday, January 22. In attendance were Mrs. Madalyn Bradford; Miss Faith Kessell, secretary; Miss Elizabeth Kennedy; Miss Dora Ruth Parks; and Mr. Charles Butler. Committee appointments were considered, among them that of the Finance Committee, a new committee whose appointment was urged at the Huntington meeting for the purpose of considering ways and means of raising funds for the necessary expenses of a legislative committee of the Association. It is hoped that between now and the next legislative session, a Finance Committee will be able to draw up recommendations for the Exective Board and the Association.

The resignation of Miss Elizabeth Meek as editor of West Virginia Libraries was accepted, and Miss Mary Wattles was selected as editor for 1949. Other committee appointments were made as follows:

Nominating: Miss Eleanor Hamilton, chairman; Miss Hazel Fisher, Mr. Budd Gambee. Constitution and By-Laws Revision: Miss Elizabeth Tarver, chairman; Miss Virginia Ebeling, Miss Barbara Davis. Auditing: Miss Edith Dobbs, chairman; Miss Katherine Traubert.

The matter of the 1949 meeting of the W.V.L.A. was discussed. This year being a year of regional meetings, with no single annual A.L.A. conference, West Virginia is to participate in the regional meeting for the states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and the District of Columbia (the Middle Atlantic region) which will be held at Atlantic City sometime in October. The extent to which the W.V.L.A. can participate officially, has yet to be determined; but it was the opinion of the Executive Board that emphasis must continue to be placed on our state meeting, and it was voted to accept the invitation of the staff of the West Virginia University Library to hold the 1949 conference in Morgantown. The exact date will be announced later.

Miss Parks reported on the plans of the West Virginia Library Commission for 1949, and indicated that the Commission was hopeful of a substantial increase in its budget for the next biennium.

West Virginia Libraries is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other communications should be addressed to the Editor.

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Vol. 3, No. 1 March 1949

Editor ..... Mary E. Wattles
West Virginia University Library
Morgantown, West Virginia

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. W. H. Conaway, Marion County Public Library, Fairmont.
E. M. Grieder, West Virginia University Library, Morgantown.
Mrs. I. D. Humphreys, State Vice-President, Friends of the Library, Ronceverte.
Elizabeth Meek, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling.

EDITORIAL

REFLECTIONS ON A PROFESSION

E. M. Grieder, Librarian
West Virginia University

There are still occasional reverberations from the discussions which took place a few years ago regarding the recognition of librarianship as a profession, equal in dignity and emoluments to other professions. At one session of the Conference of Eastern College Librarians held at Columbia University eight or nine years ago a number of conditions were laid down which were deemed necessary for true professional status. Among these, a journal of professional opinion and an organized body of knowledge were considered highly important.

At the moment there is comparatively little discussion of the matter. This may indicate that librarians have now attained professional recognition; their better financial situation, and the more numerous and more varied opportunities in librarianship may also have something to do with it.

The position which librarians were supposed to occupy before the attainment of this happy condition is rather uncertain. But it is perfectly clear that the recognition of librarians as members of a profession, or even a learned profession, does not automatically make them other than they were. A cosmetician is still a perfume salesman and a tonsorial artist is still a barber.

It has long been my conviction that the vast majority of librarians who merited professional recognition and the independence of action and thought which it entails received it before the matter ever came up for argument. It may perhaps have taken longer than now because the public was not conditioned to automatic acceptance of their status, as it was for physicians and lawyers and professors. But eventually it came, and the speed with which it came depended mostly on the quality of the librarian seeking it.

Whatever the common conception of librarianship,a faculty or a board of trustees is very likely to discover before long whether or not one particular specimen has the intelligence and knowledge to merit confidence. It is still necessary to make one's own place, to establish one's own reputation among his colleagues.

If we are to be professionals we must have the courage to protest when the canons of our profession are violated, to think independently about it and about its function in the so-

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cial group which we serve. We must develop our aims and objectives along definite and rational lines, remembering always that we have a much greater responsibility than merely making sure that our records are as accurate as the cash register in a super market and that our systems are as foolproof as the checkout in a diamond mine. We must, in short, think professionally and express ourselves as our professional convictions dictate.

Due to lack of sufficient time, it was impossible to find a guest editor who was willing and able to write a guest editorial on such short notice. Plans are under way for guest editorials for future issues of West Virginia Libraries.--The Editor.

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1950-52 COMMISSION APPROPRIATION

Miss Dora Ruth Parks

The West Virginia Library Commission's budget for the next biennium is sufficiently increased for all librarians, trustees, friends, and patrons to take heart.

A short history of the Commission may be appropriate at this time.

The law establishing the Commission was passed in 1929, but not until 1941 was an appropriation forthcoming. Lack of funds from 1929 to 1941 prohibited activity by the Commission, but Mrs. Otis G. Wilson and several other Commission members kept the Commission before the eyes of the public and the legislature during these tedious years. In 1941, Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff worked as a PTA member and $10,000 per year was granted for that biennium. In 1945, the budget was increased to $16,350 per year. In 1947, the budget rose to $20,700.

The increase in 1947 was used largely in initiating a demonstration in county library service in Monroe County. This demonstration has served as the Commission's guinea pig. From experience thus gained, the Commission has planned a program of demonstration over a period of years and has based its budget request for the 1950-52 biennium on this program. Fourteen counties are already on the Commission's waiting list.

The Commission requested $167,370 per year. It planned to use this to do four demonstrations per year, and expand service from Commission headquarters. The amounts appropriated were $109,520 for 1950-51,and $71,520 for 1951-52. While these amounts are less than were requested,they do represent serious thinking concerning public library service for the state--thinking on the part of the five Commission members, Mrs. Shurtleff, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. C. F. Lyne, Mr. Earl E. Rich,and Mr. Kyle McCormick,who spend endless hours on Commission policy and objectives, the folks back home, librarians, legislators, and state officials.

Questions have come to the Commission concerning the difference in amounts appropriated for the two years. Bookmobiles bought the first year will be taken to other counties when the first demonstrations are finished, and bookstock will begin to build within the counties.

A hearty "Thank you" should be said to those who have worked to get the appropriation passed. The Commission extends a very sincere thank you to everyone.

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WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

(Continued from p. 1)

furniture will be colonial style with comfortable and durable upholstering. Floor lamps and table lamps will be placed where needed. The entire library will be air-conditioned.

The chief purpose is to make the library the most comfortable and attractive place on the campus. When these improvements have been made we feel that this aim will have been accomplished.

PROFESSIONALLY SPEAKING

WORK CONFERENCE FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

A two-day work conference will be held at West Virginia University, under the direction of the College of Arts and Sciences, August 22-23, 1949. Problems suggested by teacher-librarians and librarians of the elementary, junior, and senior high schools of West Virginia will be considered.

Teachers and administrators who are interested in books and reading and techniques of their selection, storytelling, and library organization and planning should find help from these discussions.

Librarians of sister institutions in West Virginia, which are giving courses for the training of school librarians, as well as public librarians who are interested in extending school library service will be most welcome at the conference.

Miss Nora E. Beust, Specialist for School and Children's Libraries at the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., will be the consultant. Miss Sarah Lewis Jones, Assistant Director of the Textbook and Library Service, State Department of Education, Atlanta, Ga., will direct the conference. Several West Virginia school librarians will act as group leaders.

University residence halls will be open to those attending. For further information write to Miss Florence K. Reese, Department of Library Science, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

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A.L.A. MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
Charles R. Knapp

The A.L.A. Midwinter Conference was held this year at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, from January 20th to the 23rd, with a number of West Virginia librarians among the 1400 registered. The crowded program did not allow anyone a complete view of the conference, but small talk floating around the corridors seemed to indicate that some of the meetings which aroused the most interest included the excellent panel discussion and demonstration of standards for judging films for libraries, and the open meeting on cutting library costs. All those attending the last meeting benefited by the comments of some of the nation's most able library architects, equipment manufacturers, and builders.

Other highlights of the conference included further plans for regional meetings, a step likely to be approved heartily by those librarians in this section of the country, who find it difficult to attend sessions convening in the far West. Cataloging rules were further clarified by the substitution of The Library of Congress Rules for Descriptive Cataloging for Part Two of the A.L.A. Catalog Rules.

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SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION OF S.E.A.

At the 1948 meeting of the State Education Association, West Virginia school librarians met and reorganized the School Library Section. Officers elected for the coming year were: chairman, Miss Hazel Fisher, librarian, Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, Charleston; secretary and treasurer, Miss Heloise Dye, director of elementary libraries, Wood County, Parkersburg.

By unanimous vote it was decided that the organization should work toward the appointment of a State Supervisor of School Libraries. Suggestions were made that all school librarians should affiliate with the West Virginia Library Association and attend the annual meeting whenever possible. The group discussed the

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possibility of appointing a representative from each county to attend the meeting of the West Virginia Library Association and present a report of the meeting to S.E.A. A per capita assessment of $1.00 was accepted by the group to be used for publicity and in making plans for the 1949 meeting.

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ARE YOU

A School Librarian?
Doing Library Work with Children?

IT'S TIME TO JOIN!
The Children's Library Association
of the
Division of Libraries for Children
and Young People of the
American Library Association.

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE:

1. Identity with your chosen profession, which brings: FUN in working with people of similar interests, PROGRESS through putting the results of our combined efforts into operation.
2. Top of the News - the Division's magazine, covering subjects of interest to public and school librarians.
3. An opportunity next year to vote for the Newbery and Caldecott awards.
4. Listing of your name and special work in A.L.A. Handbook.

POINT TO REMEMBER

Children's Library Association dues are included in A.L.A. dues, but BOTH blanks must be filled out to belong to C.L.A.

If interested, write to:
Nancy A. Matthews
Children's and Young
People's Librarian
Ohio County Public Library
Wheeling, West Virginia.

G.L.S. Summer Library Conference

The reports of the Public Library Inquiry will be the subject of the 1949 summer Library Conference, sponsored annually by the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. The conference will be held this year from August 8-13.

In 1946 the American Library Association proposed to the Social Science Research Council that the council conduct a "thorough and comprehensive study of the American free public library, ... an appraisal in sociological, cultural, and human terms of the extent to which the libraries are achieving their objectives" and of the library's "potential and actual contribution to American society."

The Library Conference of the University of Chicago will provide the first opportunity for public librarians to discuss the findings and results of the inquiry. The plan for the conference is not simply to present the findings and recommendations of the inquiry but rather to consider their validity and their implications for library service.

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LIBRARY DEMONSTRATION BILL

The new Library Demonstration Bill (S.130) has been presented in both the House and Senate, and there is hope of early action despite some opposition in getting it placed on the calendar. We are fortunate in that both Senator Kilgore and Senator Neeley have expressed and demonstrated their intention of supporting the bill. In the House, Congressman Bailey, the West Virginia member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, has also evidenced that he will support the bill. It is not too late to write to your Congressman reminding him of the importance of this bill to our state.

NEWS AND NOTES

BEHYMER NAMED BY NORTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE

E. Hugh Behymer, librarian of Bethany College, has been appointed by the North Central Association of College and Secondary Schools to its evaluation committee on libraries of association colleges.

Other nationally-known educators who will serve on the committee are E. W. McDiarmid, University of Minnesota and President of the American Library Association; C. Lawrence Lynn, Wright Junior College, Chicago, Julian S. Fowler, Oberlin College; B. Lamar Johnson, Stephens College; Robert A. Miller, Indiana University; and Leon Carnovsky, University of Chicago Graduate Library School.

The Committee aims constantly to increase the quality of service and scholarship of the many institutions accredited by the group. A system of biennial reports covering a six-year cycle has been set up to study the three areas of faculty, finance, and library.

Evaluation of library resources in member colleges is the 1949 field of study by the association. The first meeting of the committee was held at the University of Chicago on February 12.

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Miss Christine Child, librarian at Stonewall Jackson High School, Charleston, died after an extended illness on January 24.

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Mrs. Donald M. Funk, assistant librarian at Fairmont State College, has recently resigned, in order to move to Pittsburgh with her husband. Her successor has not yet been appointed.

FAIRMONT STATE COLLEGE

(Continued from p. 1)

clude an audio-visual center, two seminar or conference rooms, a faculty lounge, cloak room, lavatories, and phone boothhs. The audio-visual section will include a projection room, music room, sound-proof listening booths,a room for prints and pictures, display cases, and an office.

The charging desk, work rooms, periodical and reference sections will be located on the first floor. There will be a small staff lounge, and a typing and conference room for readers which may also be used for microfilm and microcard equipment.

A typing room, a West Virginia Lounge, and most of the circulating books will be located on the third floor.

The building is of modular design. There will be no internal weight-bearing walls. Except for staff work-areas, there will be no closed doors and hence no barriers between readers and books. Instead of a stack tower, the books will be on free-standing shelves adjacent to reading areas. All ceilings will be acoustically treated and artificial lighting will be provided by fluorescent fixtures. Windows will be of sealed double-paned plate glass. Because of the amount of smoke in this area, a filtering mechanism will draw air into the building. Ceilings will be about nine and a half feet high.

The Building Committee and the architects have tried to plan a library housed in an appropriate building, rather than an imposing building into which a library will be fitted. Instead of monumentality and impressiveness, they have tried to develop a practical workshop where books will be readily accessible to readers, where reading and studying can be done in an informal and inviting atmosphere, and where audio-visual services can be provided.